Saskatchewan Health

Focus Sheet

Alcohol and Drug Centre Client Profile
Individuals in Recovery Services 2000/2001

All across Saskatchewan alcohol and drug programs funded by Saskatchewan Health provide treatment and counselling services to clients with alcohol and drug-related problems. Centres include inpatient and outpatient facilities, detox centres and long term residential centres. In 2000/2001, 9,548 clients used recovery services from one or more of these centres.

Highlights

- The total number of alcohol and drug centre clients increased by 16% between 1995/1996 and 2000/2001.
- Most clients (89%) had problems with alcohol, either alone (50%), or in combination with other drugs (39%).
- Eleven percent had problems with drugs alone.
- Over two-thirds of clients (68%) were male.
- The largest proportion of clients (27%) were 20 to 29 years of age, followed by those 30 to 39 years of age (26%).
- The proportion of Aboriginal clients (55%) was extremely high compared to 9% of Aboriginal persons in the Saskatchewan population in 1996.
- Over a third (37%) of clients were not working compared to the Saskatchewan unemployment rate of 5%.
- Almost two-thirds of clients (66%) had not completed Grade 12.
- Six percent of all female clients of childbearing age reported they were pregnant.
- Fifteen percent of female clients reported current injection drug use compared to 8% of male clients.

Alcohol and Drug Patterns

Number of Clients

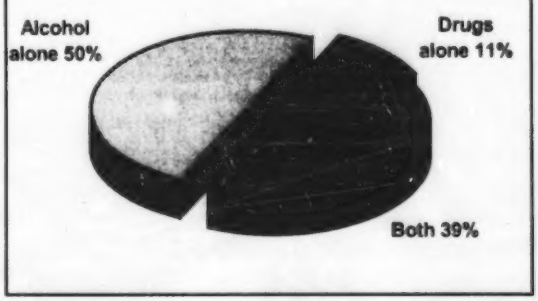
In 2000/2001, 9,548 clients used alcohol and drug centre services.

Forty-four percent of alcohol and drug centre clients had been previously admitted to alcohol and drug recovery programs during the preceding two years. Eighteen percent of all clients had been admitted two or more times in the preceding two years.

Type of Problem

Eighty-nine percent of all clients had problems with alcohol; either with alcohol alone (50%) or in combination with drugs (39%). Eleven percent of clients had problems with drugs alone (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Type of Problem



Problems varied according to sex, age and ancestry (Table 1). Male clients were more likely to have problems with alcohol alone (52%) than female clients (44%). Female clients were more likely than males to have problems with drugs alone (15% vs. 10%), and with a combination of alcohol and other drugs (41% vs. 38%).

Table 1: Type of Problem by Sex, Age and Ancestry

	Alcohol only		Drugs only		Both		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Sex							
male	3276	52%	611	10%	2364	38%	100%
female	1303	44%	444	15%	1227	41%	100%
Age							
under 15	28	12%	45	20%	152	68%	100%
15-19	375	21%	293	17%	1079	62%	100%
20-29	1115	44%	286	11%	1105	44%	100%
30-39	1283	54%	250	11%	832	35%	100%
40-49	1039	68%	140	9%	356	23%	100%
50-59	507	85%	28	5%	58	10%	100%
60+	232	91%	13	5%	9	4%	100%
Ancestry							
Non-Aboriginal	2263	54%	580	14%	1333	32%	100%
Aboriginal	2312	46%	475	9%	2254	45%	100%

Problems with alcohol alone increased with age. In the 60 and over age group, 91% of clients had problems only with alcohol. Problems with drugs alone decreased with age. Problems with a combination of alcohol and other drugs were most common among younger clients. Sixty-two percent of clients 19 years of age or under had problems with both drugs and alcohol. Young clients (age 19 or under) are far more likely to have problems with drugs (80%) than adult clients (42%) are.

A larger proportion of Aboriginal (First Nations and Métis) (45%) than non-Aboriginal (32%) had problems with a combination of alcohol and drugs.

Injection Drug Use

A total of 971 clients (10%) reported current injection drug use. Eight percent of male clients (499) reported injection drug use compared to 15% of female clients (472). Talwin/Ritalin was the most frequently injected drug for 37% of injection drug users, followed by morphine/Demerol (29%) and cocaine (25%).

Drug Use

Clients were asked what drugs they had used in the past year, and if their drug use was creating problems. Some clients reported using more than one drug. Many clients reported using a drug, but stated that it was not causing a problem.

Clients who reported problems with drugs were most likely to use marijuana or hashish (30%), followed by nicotine (18%), crack/cocaine (10%), and other drugs (Table 2).

Table 2: Drugs Used by Clients Reported by Client as Causing Problems

	No.	%
Marijuana/Hashish	2876	30%
Nicotine	1695	18%
Crack/cocaine	976	10%
Prescription Narcotics	912	10%
Non-prescription Narcotics	821	9%
Stimulants	655	7%
Hallucinogens	486	5%
Tranquilizers	464	5%
Sedatives and Hypnotics	432	5%
Anti-depressants	192	2%
Lysol	151	2%
Solvents	139	1%
Steroids	9	0%

When the total amount of drug use among alcohol and drug centre clients is counted, we see that the majority of clients do use drugs other than alcohol (Table 3).

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Table 3: Drugs Used by Clients: Problem and Non-Problem Use	No.	%
Nicotine	7406	78%
Marijuana/Hashish	4960	52%
Prescription Narcotics	1766	19%
Crack/cocaine	1494	16%
Non-prescription Narcotics	1286	13%
Hallucinogens	1254	13%
Anti-depressants	1228	13%
Tranquilizers	1136	12%
Stimulants	1082	11%
Sedatives and Hypnotics	960	10%
Solvents	208	2%
Lysol	180	2%
Steroids	81	1%

Over three-quarters (78%) of clients used nicotine, and half (52%) used marijuana or hashish.

Characteristics

Sex

In 2000/2001 a total of 6,460 (68%) clients were male and 3,088 (32%) were female (Table 4, Figure 2).

Figure 2: Sex of Clients

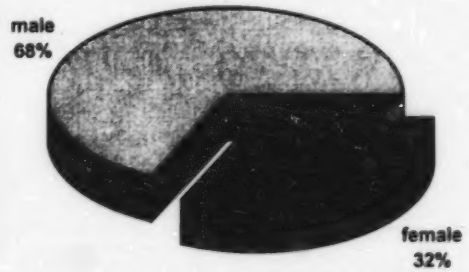


Table 4: Sex, Age and Ancestry of Clients	No.	%
All Clients	9548	100%
Sex		
male	6460	68%
female	3088	32%
Age		
under 15	232	2%
15-19	1770	19%
20-29	2587	27%
30-39	2477	26%
40-49	1603	17%
50-59	619	6%
60+	260	3%
Ancestry		
Non-Aboriginal	4338	45%
Aboriginal	5202	55%

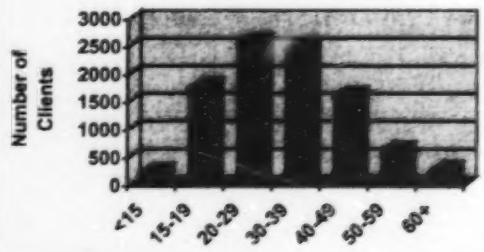
The ratio of male to female clients varied with age, though males were in the majority in all age categories. Among those under 15 years of age there were 133 males and 99 females. In the 15-19 age group there were twice as many males as females, and in the 60 and over group, there were four times as many males (Table 5).

Table 5: Age by Sex	Male		Female	
	No.	%	No.	%
under 15	133	2%	99	3%
15-19	1222	19%	548	18%
20-29	1669	26%	918	30%
30-39	1600	25%	877	28%
40-49	1157	18%	446	14%
50-59	470	7%	149	5%
60+	209	3%	51	2%

Age

The average age of clients was 32. The smallest numbers of clients were in the under 15 and in the 60+ age groups. The largest numbers of clients were in the 20 to 29 (27%) and 30 to 39 (26%) year age groups (Table 4, Figure 3).

Figure 3: Age of Clients



When compared to the Saskatchewan population, those between the ages of 15 and 49 were over-represented among alcohol and drug clients; the 15 and under and the 50 and over age groups were under-represented (Table 6).

Table 6: Comparison of Alcohol and Drug Centre Clients and Saskatchewan Population by Age

	Clients 2000/01	Sask. Pop. 1996
under 15	2%	23%
15-19	19%	8%
20-29	27%	13%
30-39	26%	15%
40-49	17%	14%
50-59	6%	9%
60+	3%	19%

Ancestry

Aboriginal clients made up 55% of all alcohol and drug centre clients in 2000/2001 (Table 4). Only an estimated 9% of the 1996 Saskatchewan population 15 years and over was Aboriginal. (1996 is the most recent year for which this data is available.)

Table 7: Sex by Ancestry

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
	No.	%	No.	%
Male	3173	61%	3282	76%
Female	2029	39%	1056	24%

The proportion of men in recovery services was higher in the non-Aboriginal client population (76%) than in the Aboriginal client population (61%) (Table 7).

Table 8: Age by Ancestry

	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
	No.	%	No.	%
Under 15	138	3%	92	2%
15-19	884	17%	884	20%
20-29	1662	32%	924	21%
30-39	1562	30%	912	21%
40-49	740	14%	863	20%
50-59	174	3%	445	10%
60+	42	1%	218	5%

The average age of Aboriginal clients is less than that of non-Aboriginal clients (30 vs. 34 years). The non-Aboriginal client population had a higher proportion of clients that were 40 and over (Table 8).

Employment

In 2000/2001, 37% of alcohol and drug centre clients were unemployed. This compares to the 2000 unemployment rate of 5% in the Saskatchewan population 15 years and over.

Thirty-four percent of clients were in the paid work force. Only 25% of clients were employed full time. Thirty-eight percent of clients were distributed among part-time, seasonal, homemaker, student and retired (Table 9, Figure 4).

Table 9: Employment Status	No.	%
Full-time	2413	25%
Part-time	843	9%
Not Working	3533	37%
Student	1576	17%
Retired	166	2%
Homemaker	643	7%
Seasonal	352	4%

A greater proportion of men (38%) were not working compared to women (35%), and a greater proportion of Aboriginal clients (45%) were not working compared to non-Aboriginal (28%).

Figure 4: Employment Status

Education

The majority of clients in 2000/2001 (66%) had less than a Grade 12 education. Nineteen percent had completed Grade 12, and an additional 16% had received some post-secondary education, either at a university or technical institute (Table 10). In the 1996 Saskatchewan population, 43% of those aged 15 or over had received some post-secondary education. (1996 is the most recent year available for this information.)

Female clients had slightly more education than male clients, with 18% having received some post-secondary education compared to 14% of men. Twenty-two percent of non-Aboriginal clients had received some post-secondary education compared to 10% of Aboriginal clients.

Table 10: Educational Status	No.	%
Less than grade 9	1852	19%
Grade 9 to 11	4394	46%
Grade 12	1779	19%
Some post-secondary	883	9%
complete post-secondary	596	6%

Occupation

The occupational group with the largest percentage of alcohol and drug centre clients in 2000/2001 was that of student (18%), followed by unskilled (18%), semi-skilled (14%), skilled (14%) and homemaker (8%). The remaining 27% were classified as professional, managerial, clerical, sales, farm, hotel/restaurant, small business owner, retired and other (Table 11).

Table 11: Occupation	No.	%
Student	1724	18%
Unskilled	1719	18%
Semi-skilled	1337	14%
Skilled Trade	1330	14%
Homemaker	804	8%
Professional	399	4%
Hotel/restaurant	306	3%
Small business owner	182	2%
Farmer	173	2%
Retired	153	2%
Managerial	147	2%
Clerical	142	1%
Farm labourer	142	1%
Sales Representative	87	1%
Sales Clerk	83	1%
Other	796	8%

Legal Status

In 2000/2001, forty-two percent of alcohol and drug centre clients (4,045) were involved with the legal system: 2,215 had received a probation order, 1,067 had charges pending, 756 were incarcerated, 602 were being dealt with under the Young Offenders Act, 102 had pre-trial conditions, 74 had received a parole order, and 53 had received a family court order. (Some clients are included in more than one category.)

Forty-eight percent of male clients and 30% of female clients had some legal involvement; 51% of Aboriginal clients and 32% of non-Aboriginal clients had some legal involvement.

While 42% of clients were currently involved with the legal system, 59% of all clients had received a Criminal Code conviction for one or more offences in the previous five years.

In the two years prior to receiving treatment services, a total of 2,121 clients (22%) had received impaired driving convictions. A total of 610 clients (6%) had been convicted two or more times.

Pregnant Clients

Of the 2,789 female clients of childbearing age who attended recovery services in 2000/2001, a total of 158 or 6% stated they were pregnant. The majority of these pregnant clients were Aboriginal (82%). Twenty-five percent of pregnant clients were 19 years of age or younger (Table 12).

Table 12: Age of Pregnant clients

	No.	%
19 and under	40	25%
20-29	87	55%
30-39	25	16%
40 and over	6	4%

Seventy-eight percent of all pregnant clients had a problem with alcohol, either alone or in combination with drugs. Forty-three percent of all pregnant clients had a problem with both alcohol and drugs. Twenty-two percent had a problem with drugs alone (Table 13).

Table 13: Problem of Pregnant Clients

	No.	%
Alcohol	54	35%
Drugs	33	22%
Alcohol & Drugs	66	43%

Seventy-eight percent (78%) of pregnant clients had not completed high school. A quarter of pregnant clients (27%) had less than a grade 9 level of education.

Source of Referral

The largest sources of referral for clients were self or family (31%), the justice system (26%), and alcohol and drug centres (21%). Of the remainder, 7% were from the health system (physicians, hospitals, mental health services), 7% were from government and non-governmental social agencies, 3% from the educational system, 1% from employers, 1% from AA, and 2% from other sources (Table 14).

Table 14: Referral Source

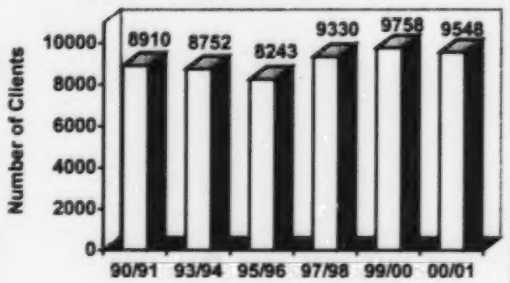
	No.	%
Self/Family	2946	31%
Justice	2523	26%
Alc/Drug Treatment Centre	1984	21%
Health	672	7%
Social Agency	667	7%
Education	333	3%
Employment	117	1%
AA	64	1%
Other	224	2%

Trends 1995/96-2000/01

Number of Clients

The number of clients rose from 8,243 in 1995/96 to 9,548 in 2000/2001, an increase of 1,305 clients, or 16%. While the number of clients has fluctuated, there has been an overall increase in the number of clients over the last 10 years (Table 15, Figure 5).

Figure 5: Changes in Number of Clients



Some of the increase between 1995/96 and 2000/2001 is due to legislative changes that took effect on August 1, 1996. Prior to being eligible to apply for their driver's licence, all drivers convicted of impaired driving and other alcohol related driving offences must be screened for addictions. If screening results indicate no chemical dependence, clients are referred to Driving Without Impairment educational courses. If screening indicates dependence syndrome, as defined by the World Health Organization, clients are referred to further assessment and recovery services. Clients must satisfactorily complete the assigned recovery program before becoming eligible for license reinstatement.

Type of Problem

Since 1995/96 the number of clients who had problems with drugs alone has increased by 79%.

Injection Drug Use

The number of clients reporting current injection drug use (IDU) increased by 70% (572 to 971) since 1995/96. During this period the number of female IDU clients increased by 127%, while the number of male clients decreased by 37%. The greatest percentage increase (146%) was reported in the forty and over age group. This increase in the 40 and over age group is likely due to recent increased availability of methadone treatment for opiate dependent clients.

Sex, Age and Ancestry

Table 15: 1995/96 – 2000/01 Comparison by Sex, Age, Ancestry and Problem

	1995/96		2000/01		1995/96 2000/01 % change
	No.	% of total	No.	% of total	
All Clients	8243	100%	9548	100%	16%
Sex					
male	5634	68%	6460	68%	15%
female	2609	32%	3088	32%	18%
Age					
under 15	231	3%	232	2%	0%
15-19	1671	20%	1770	19%	6%
20-29	2176	26%	2587	27%	19%
30-39	2290	28%	2477	26%	8%
40-49	1204	15%	1603	17%	33%
50-59	414	5%	619	6%	50%
60+	249	3%	260	3%	4%
Ancestry					
Non-Aboriginal	4267	52%	4338	45%	2%
Aboriginal	3973	48%	5202	55%	31%
Problem					
alcohol	4021	49%	4579	50%	14%
drugs	589	7%	1055	11%	79%
alc/drugs	3537	43%	3591	39%	2%

The number of male clients increased by 15% and the number of female clients increased by 18% since 1995/96 (Table 15).

The majority of clients in 1995/96 and 2000/01 were in the 20-39 age group. During this period there has been a 50% increase in the number of clients who are between 50 and 59 years old.

Seventy-eight percent of young clients (19 and under) have problems with drugs, similar to the 1995/96 value of 79%. The percentage of adults who had problems with drugs increased from 42% in 1995/96 to 48% in 2000/01.

The number of Aboriginal clients increased by 31% and the number of non-Aboriginal clients increased by 2% from 1995/96. Aboriginal clients are a majority of the client population.

Employment

The proportion of clients who were in the paid work force dropped from 36% in 1995/96 to 34% in 2000/2001. The unemployment rate among clients remained constant at 37%.

Education, Occupation

There was little change since 1995/96.

Legal Status

The percentage of clients involved in the legal system decreased slightly from 46% in 1995/96 to 42% in 2000/01. The percentage of male clients involved in the legal system decreased from 55% to 48%. The percentage of female clients involved in the legal system increased slightly from 27% to 30%.

Pregnant Clients

There was little change since 1995/96.

Notes: 1. Not included in this data are clients participating in alcohol and drug treatment centre collateral programs. Collateral programs are designed for family members and others who are affected by another individual's substance abuse or dependency, not their own substance abuse/dependency. In 2000/2001 there were 1,129 collateral clients.

2. Those SGI clients who were screened for chemical dependency, but who were not treated are excluded from the data.

3. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

4 Totals in different tables may not add up to the same number due to unknown classification in some instances.

Caution: This information represents only those clients who received treatment through Saskatchewan Health funded alcohol and drug centres. Those who did not seek treatment or who sought assistance from physicians, hospitals, mental health centres or elsewhere are not included in the data.

Sources: Saskatchewan Health, *Alcohol and Drug Centre Client Profile: Individuals in Treatment 1995/96*; Saskatchewan Health, Community Care Branch's *Management Information System* (2000/2001 data); Statistics Canada, *The Nation: Complete Edition, Census 96*, Catalogue 93F0020XCB96003 and Catalogue 93F0025XDB96001; Bureau of Statistics, *Saskatchewan Statistics: Labour Force Statistics*, Sept. 4, 1998, Table 2.

For additional copies contact:

SPMC Distribution Centre

110 Henderson Drive

Regina, SK S4P 3V7

Ph: 787-2056

Fax: 787-0194